

WEL

- Then shun the ill; and know, my dear,
Kindness and constancy will prove
The only pillars fit to bear
So vast a weight as that of love. *Prior.*
4. Gravity; heaviness; tendency to the center.
Heaviness or weight is not here considered as being such a
natural quality, whereby condensed bodies do of themselves
tend downwards; but rather as being an affection, whereby
they may be measured. *Wilkins.*
- The shaft that slightly was impress'd,
Now from his heavy fall with weight increas'd,
Drove through his neck. *Dryden.*
- What natural agent impel them so strongly with a transverse
file blow against that tremendous weight and rapidity, when
whole worlds are falling? *Bentley.*
5. Pressure; burthen; overwhelming power.
Thou art no Atlas for so great a weight. *Shakespeare.*
- To good malignant, to bad men benign,
Under her own weight groaning. *Milton.*
- We must those, who groan beneath the weight
Of age, disface, or want, commiserate. *Denham.*
- The prince may carry the plough, but the weight lies upon
the people. *L'Estrange.*
- Pollux's load was grown so great,
He sunk beneath the cumbrous weight. *Swift.*
6. Importance; power; influence; efficacy.
How to make ye suddenly an answer,
In such a point of weight, so near mine honour,
In truth I know not. *Shakespeare. Henry VIII.*
- If this right of heir carry any weight with it, if it be the
ordinance of God, must not all be subject to it. *Locke.*
- To make the sense of esteem or disgrace sink the deeper,
and be of the more weight, other agreeable or disagreeable
things should constantly accompany these different states. *Locke.*
- An author's arguments lose their weight, when we are per-
suaded that he only writes for argument's sake. *Addison.*
- See, Lord, the sorrows of my heart,
Ere yet it be too late;
And hear my Saviour's dying groans,
To give those sorrows weight. *Addison's Spectator.*
- The solemnities that encompass the magistrate add dignity
to all his actions, and weight to all his words. *Atterbury.*
- WEIGHTILY. *adv.* [from *weight*.]
1. Heavily; ponderously.
2. Solidly; importantly.
- Is his poetry the worse, because he makes his agents speak
weightily and contentiously? *Brown's Notes on the Odyssey.*
- WEIGHTINESS. *n. f.* [from *weight*.]
1. Ponderosity; gravity; heaviness.
2. Solidity; force.
I fear I have dwelt longer on this passage than the weightiness
of any argument in it requires. *Locke.*
3. Importance.
The apparent defect of her judgment, joined to the weightiness
of the adventure, caused many to marvel. *Hayward.*
- WEIGHTLESS. *adj.* [from *weight*.]
1. Light; having no gravity.
How by him balanc'd in the weightless air?
Can't thou the wisdom of his works declare? *Sandys.*
2. Not possible to be weighed. Improper.
It must both weightless and immortal prove,
Because the centre of it is above. *Dryden.*
- WEIGHTY. *adj.* [from *weight*.]
1. Heavy; ponderous.
You have already weary'd fortune so,
She cannot farther be your friend or foe;
But sits all breathless, and admires to feel
A fate so weighty, that it stops her wheel. *Dryden.*
2. Important; momentous; efficacious.
I to your assistance do make love,
Masking the business from the common eye
For fondry weighty reasons. *Shakespeare. Macbeth.*
- No fool Pythagoras was thought;
Whilft he his weighty doctrines taught,
He made his lifting scholars stand;
Their mouth still cover'd with their hand:
Else, may-be, some odd-thinking youth,
Lest friend to doctrine than to truth,
Might have refus'd to let his ears
Attend the music of the spheres. *Prior.*
- Thus spoke to my lady the knight full of care,
Let me have your advice in a weighty affair. *Swift.*
3. Rigorous; severe. Not in use.
If, after two days thine, Athens contains thee,
Attend our weightier judgment. *Shakespeare. Timon.*
- WE'LAWAY. *interj.* [This I once believed a corruption of *weal*
away, that is, *happiness is gone*: so *Junius* explained it; but
the Saxon exclamation is palapa, *wee on wee*: from *welaway*, is
formed by corruption *welaway*.] *Alas.*
- Harrow now out, and welaway, he cried,
What dismal day hath sent this cursed light! *Spenser.*

WEL

- Ah, welaway! most noble lords, how can
Your cruel eyes endure so piteous sight? *Fairy Queen.*
- Welaway, the while I was so fond,
To leave the good that I had in hand. *Spenser.*
- WE'LCOME. *adj.* [from *venia*, French; *plicune*, Saxon; *wel-*
koms, Dutch.]
1. Received with gladness; admitted willingly to any place or
enjoyment; grateful; pleasing.
I serve you, madam. *Shakespeare. King Lear.*
- Your graces are right welcome. *Shakespeare. King Lear.*
- He, though not of the plot, will like it,
And wish it should proceed; for, unto men
Prest with their wants, all change is ever welcome. *B. John.*
- Here let me earn my bread,
'Till oft invoked death
Hasten the welcome end of all my pains. *Milton.*
- He that knows how to make those he converses with easy,
has found the true art of living, and being welcome and valued
every where.
2. To bid WELCOME. To receive with professions of kindness.
Some stood in a row in so civil a fashion, as if to welcome
us; and divers put their arms a little abroad, which is their
gesture when they bid any welcome. *Bacon.*
- WE'LCOME. *interj.* A form of salutation used to a new comer,
elliptically used for you are welcome.
- Welcomes, he said,
O long expected to my dear embrace. *Dryden.*
- Welcomes, great monarch, to your own. *Dryden.*
- WE'LCOME. *n. f.*
1. Salutation of a new comer.
Welcome ever smiles, and farewell goes out sighing. *Shakespeare.*
- Leontes opening his free arms, and weeping
His welcome forth. *Shakespeare. Winter's Tale.*
2. Kind reception of a new comer.
I should be free from injuries, and abound as much in the
true causes of welcomes, as I should find want of the effects
thereof. *Sidney.*
- I look'd not for you yet, nor am provided
For your fit welcome. *Shakespeare. King Lear.*
- Madam, new years may well expect to find
We come from you, to whom they are so kind:
Still as they pass they court and smile on you,
And make your beauty as themselves seem new. *Waller.*
- Where diligence opens the door of the understanding, and
impartiality keeps it, truth finds an entrance and a welcome
too. *South's Sermon.*
- To WE'LCOME. *v. a.* To salute a new comer with kindness.
I know no cause
Why I should welcome such a guest as grief,
Save bidding farewell to so sweet a guest
As my sweet Richard. *Shakespeare. Richard II.*
- They stood in a row in so civil a fashion, as if to welcome
us. *Bacon.*
- Thus we salute thee with our early song,
And welcome thee, and wish thee long. *Milton.*
- To welcome home
His warlike brother, is Pirithous come. *Dryden.*
- The lark and linnet strain their warbling throats,
To welcome in the Spring. *Dryden.*
- WE'LCOME to our House. *n. f.* An herb.
WE'LCOMENESS. *n. f.* [from *welcome*.] Gratefulness.
Our joys, after some centuries of years, may seem to have
grown older, by having been enjoyed so many ages; yet will
they really still continue new, not only upon the forces of their
welcome, but by their perpetually equal, because infinite,
distance from a period. *Boyle.*
- WE'LCOME. *n. f.* [from *welcome*.] The saluter or receiver of
a new comer.
Farewell, thou woful welcomer of glory. *Shakespeare.*
- WE'LD, or WOULD. *n. f.* [from *luteola*, Latin.] Yellow weed, or
dyers weed.
Its leaves are oblong and intire: it has an anomalous flower,
consisting of many dissimilar leaves: the fruit is globular, hol-
low, and divided into three parts. The dyers use it for dying
bright yellows and lemon colours; and this is by some sup-
posed to be the plant used by the ancient Persians in painting
their bodies. *Milton.*
- To WE'LD, for To weld. *Spenser.*
- To WE'LD. *v. a.* To beat one mass into another, so as to in-
corporate them.
Sparkling or welding heat is used when you double up your
iron to make it thick enough, and so weld or work in the
doubling into one another. *Moxon's Mech. Exerc.*
- WE'LDER. *n. f.* A term perhaps merely Irish; though it may
be derived from *To weld*, to turn or manage: whence *welders*,
welder.
- Such immediate tenants have others under them, and so a
third and fourth in subordination, till it comes to the *auditor*,
as they call him, who sits at a rack-rent, and lives mis-
erably. *Swift.*
- WE'LFARE. *n. f.* [from *well* and *fare*.] Happiness; success; prosperity.
If friends to a government seek their assistance, they put
it

WEL

- it in the power of a few desperate men to ruin the welfare of
those who are superior to them in strength and interest. *Add.*
- Discretion is the perfection of reason: cunning is a kind of
instinct that only looks out after our immediate interest and
welfare. *Addison's Spectator.*
- To WELK. *v. o.* [Of this word in *Spenser* I know not well the
meaning: peccan, in Saxon, is to roll; *welken*, in German,
and *peccan*, in Saxon, are clouds; whence I suppose *welk*,
welk, or *welk* is an undulation or corrugation, or corrugated
or convoluted body. *Whilk* is used for a small shell fish.] To
cloud; to obscure.
- Now sad Winter welked hath the day,
And Phœbus, weary of his yearly task,
Established hath his steeds in lowly lay,
And taken up his inn in fishes haik. *Spenser.*
- As gentle shepherd in sweet eventide,
When ruddy Phœbus 'gins to welk in West,
Marks which do bite their hasty supper belt. *Fairy Queen.*
- The welked Phœbus gan awake
His weary wain. *Spenser.*
- WE'KED. *adj.* Wrinkled; wreathed.
Methought his eyes
Were two full moons: he had a thousand noses,
Horns welk'd and wand' like the enridged sea. *Shakespeare.*
- WE'KIN. *n. f.* [from *peccan*, to roll, or *peccan*, clouds, Sax.]
1. The visible regions of the air. Out of use, except in poetry.
Ne in all the welkin was no cloud. *Chaucer.*
- He leaves the welkin way most beaten plain,
And rapt with whirling wheels inflames the skyen,
With fire not made to burn, but fairly for to shine. *Fa. Qu.*
- The swallow peeps out of her nest,
And cloudy welkin cleareth. *Spenser's Pastorals.*
- Spur your proud hories hard, and ride in blood:
Amaze the welkin with your broken flares. *Shak. R. III.*
- With feats of arms
From either end of heav'n the welkin burns. *Milton.*
- Now my task is smoothly done,
I can fly, or I can run
Quickly to the green earth's end,
Where the bow'd welkin flow doth bend. *Milton.*
- Their hideous yells
Rend the dark welkin. *Philips.*
2. WELKIN Eye, is, I suppose, blue eye; skyl coloured eye.
Yet were it true
To say this boy were like me! Come, sir page,
Look on me with your welkin eye, sweet villain. *Shakespeare.*
- WELL. *n. f.* [from *jelle*, Saxon.]
1. A spring; a fountain; a source.
Begin then, sisters of the sacred well,
That from beneath the seat of Jove doth spring. *Milton.*
- As the root and branch are but one tree,
And well and stream do but one river make;
So if the root and well corrupted be,
The stream and branch the same corruption take. *Davies.*
2. A deep narrow pit of water.
The muscles are so many well-buckets: when one of them
acts and draws, 'tis necessary that the other must obey. *Dryden.*
3. The cavity in which flairs are placed.
Hollow newelled flairs are made about a square hollow
newel: suppose the well-hole to be eleven foot long, and six
foot wide, and we would bring up a pair of flairs from the first
floor eleven foot high, it being intended a sky-light shall fall
through the hollow newel. *Moxon's Mech. Exerc.*
- To WELL. *v. n.* [from *wellan*, Saxon.] To spring; to issue as from
a spring.
Therby a crystal stream did gently play,
Which from a sacred fountain welled forth away. *Fa. Qu.*
- The bubbling wave did ever freshly well. *Fairy Queen.*
- A dreary corse,
All wallow'd in his own yet lukewarm blood,
That from his wound yet welled fresh, alas! *Spenser.*
- Himself affixes to lift him from the ground,
With clotted locks, and blood that well'd from out the
wound. *Dryden's Æn.*
- From his two springs,
Pure welding out, he through the lucid lake
Of fair Dambea rolls his infant stream. *Thomson's Summer.*
- To WELL. *v. a.* To pour any thing forth.
To her people wealth they forth do well,
And health to every foreign nation. *Fairy Queen.*
- WELL. *adj.* [Well seems to be sometimes an adjective, though
it is not always easy to determine its relations.]
1. Not sick; not unhappy.
Mark, we use
To say the dead are well. *Shakespeare. Ant. and Cleopatra.*
- Lady, I am not well, else I should answer
From a full flowing stomach. *Shakespeare. King Lear.*
- In poison there is physick; and this news,
That would, had I been well, have made me sick,
Being sick, hath in some measure made me well. *Shakespeare.*
- While thou art well, thou mayest do much good; but when
thou art sick, thou canst not tell what thou shalt be able to do:

WEL

- it is not very much not very good. Few men mend with sick-
ness, as there are but few who by travel and a wandering life
become devout. *Taylor's Guide to Devotion.*
- Men under irregular appetites never think themselves well,
so long as they fancy they might be better; then from better
they must rise to better. *L'Estrange.*
- 'Tis easy for any, when well, to give advice to them that
are not. *Wake's Preparation for Death.*
2. Convenient; happy.
Holdings were so plentiful, and holders so scarce, as well
was the landlord, who could get one to be his tenant. *Carew.*
- Charity is made the constant companion and perfection of
all virtues; and well it is for that virtue where it most enters,
and longest stays. *Spenser's Sermons.*
- This exactness is necessary, and it would be well too, if it
extended itself to common conversation. *Locke.*
- It would have been well for Genoa, if she had followed
the example of Venice, in not permitting her nobles to make
any purchase of lands in the dominions of a foreign prince. *Add.*
3. Being in favour.
He followed the fortunes of that family; and was well
with Henry the fourth. *Dryden.*
4. Recovered from any sickness or misfortune.
I am forry
For your displeasure; but all will sure be well. *Shakespeare.*
- Just thoughts, and modest expectations are easily satisfied.
If we don't over-rate our pretensions, all will be well. *Collier.*
- WELL. *adv.* [from *well*, Gothick; *jelle*, Saxon; *wel*, Dutch; *wel*,
Islandick.]
1. Not ill; not unhappily.
Some sense, and more estate, kind heav'n
To this well-lotted peer has given;
What then? he must have rule and sway;
Else all is wrong till he's in play. *Prior.*
2. Not ill; not wickedly.
My bargains, and well-won thrift he calls in rest. *Shak.*
- Thou one bad act with many deeds well done
Mayst cover. *Milton.*
3. Skillfully; properly.
A private caution I know not well how to fort, unless I
should call it political, by no means to build too near a great
neighbour. *Wotton.*
- Beware and govern well thy appetite.
Whether the learn'd Minerva be her theme,
Or chaste Diana bathing in the stream;
None can record their heavenly praise so well. *Dryden.*
- What poet would not mourn to see
His brother write as well as he? *Swift.*
4. Not amiss; not unsuccessfully; not erroneously.
Soliman commended them for a plot so well by them laid,
more than he did the victory of others got by good fortune, not
grounded upon any good reason. *Kneller.*
- The soldier that philosopher well blam'd,
Who long and loudly in the schools declaim'd. *Denham.*
- 'Tis almost impossible to translate verbally and well. *Dryden.*
5. Not insufficiently; not defectively.
The plain of Jordan was well watered every where. *Genesis.*
- We are well able to overcome it. *Num. xiii. 30.*
- The merchant adventurers being a strong company, and
well underfist with rich men, held out bravely. *Bacon.*
6. To a degree that gives pleasure.
I like well, in some places, fair columns upon frames of
carpenters work. *Bacon.*
7. With praise; favourably.
All the world speaks well of you. *Pope.*
8. Well is sometimes like the French *bien*, a term of concession.
The knot might well be cut, but untied it could not be. *Sidney.*
- To know
In measure what the mind can well contain. *Milton.*
9. It is a word by which something is admitted as the ground
for a conclusion.
Well, let's away, and say how much is done. *Shakespeare.*
- Well, by this author's confession, a number superior are
for the succession in the house of Hanover. *Swift.*
10. As well as. Together with; not less than.
Coptos was the magazine of all the trade from Æthiopia,
by the Nile, as well as of those commodities that came from
the west by Alexandria. *Arbuthnot on Coins.*
11. Well is him or me; bene est, he is happy.
Well is him that dwelleth with a wife of understanding, and
that hath not slipped with his tongue. *Ecclesi. xxv. 8.*
12. Well nigh. Nearly; almost.
I freed well nigh half th' angelick name. *Milton.*
13. It is used much in composition, to express any thing right,
laudable, or not defective.
Antiochus understanding him not to be well affected to his af-
fairs, provided for his own safety. *2 Mac. iv. 27.*
- There may be safety to the well-affected Persians; but to
those which do conspire against us, a memorial of de-
struction. *Ezra. xvi. 23.*
- Should a whole host at once discharge the bow,
My well-aim'd shaft with death prevents the foe. *Pope.*
- What